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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Polish Sabotage at Moravska Ostrava

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Due to its importance as an industrial center, Moravska-Ostrava is kept under tight Soviet control. A wing of the main railroad station has been taken over by a Soviet military transport command, a name which covers the fact that it is really a guard command, with 155 to 165 members.
2. The MVD also has a section in the town, in the building of the Odesk Travel Bureau. Total personnel, military and civilian numbers 80 to 85.
3. The area is also carefully watched by Czechoslovak state organizations. The defense office of the Czechoslovak Army is in the trade union building on Red Army Plaza. It is headed by a Commandant Gersa. There is an office of the Czech SNB (National Security Service) in the Brotherhood building. An office of the "Communist Fighter Groups for the Struggle against Partisans and Bourgeois Agents" is in a former school. This organization trains undercover agents and provocateurs who work among the workers. This group is headed by an activist named Svitan.
4. There is a special investigating commission of the SNB in the central police office on Stalin Plaza. This office is especially concerned with the "Polish partisan danger." Another very secret office on Rudna gasse works on the same problem.
5. As a matter of fact saboteurs, who are probably connected with Polish partisans, have done a good deal of damage in Moravska Ostrava and its

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neighborhood during the last six months. There were formerly 5,000 Polish forced laborers in the area, but they were later withdrawn. Since that time the heavy industry in the area has been struggling with an acute manpower shortage. The labor offices cannot provide the necessary trained technical personnel. An effort to supply the lack with Czechoslovak forced laborers has brought in only about 2,300 head, who are installed in a new labor camp.

6. The Poles had to be withdrawn because quarrels and violence between Polish and Czech workers were of daily occurrence. Among the Poles were many anti-Communists and anti-Soviets, who managed to distribute numerous anti-Communist leaflets among themselves and the Czechs.
7. The investigations of the SNB yielded no important results. The state security organizations were of the opinion that some Polish partisans had got in among the Polish workers, and that they were performing small acts of sabotage. These acts were magnified among the Czech workers at the factory.
8. The Party organs agreed that the security services had lost control of the situation and asked for Soviet help.

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